

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/656,288

Examiner

David H. Chu

Applicant(s)

NAKAJIMA, NOBORU

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the terminal disclaimer submitted 12/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/849,531.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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Allowance

Response to Amendment

1. Acknowledgment is made of the terminal disclaimer filed on 12/13/2006 in which:

- The examiner acknowledges the terminal disclaimer that has been approved by the office.

2. Claims 1-30 are currently pending in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/656288 and an Office Action on the merits follows.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1-30 are allowed.**

4. Note with respect to claims 1, 11 and 21,

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

5. Reference Minne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6950129) have been made of record as teaching:

- A display 30 that is utilized to display operational features of a digital camera 20, such as the number of pictures taken, battery status, etc; Wherein the user taking into account the information provided to the user by the status display feature of Minne et al when capturing an image is the equivalent to Capturing according to messages shown on an output device

6. However, none of the prior art teaches or suggests:

- A wide-area high-resolution image generation method comprising the steps of: a total image acquisition step in which a target object of the generation of a wide-area high-resolution image is captured by a capture device and thereby a total image of the target object is acquired; an image structure analysis step in which image structure

analysis is conducted to the total image of the target object and thereby structural elements are extracted from the total image and position information of each structural element is obtained; a sub-image acquisition step which is conducted for one or more of the structural elements, in which one or more partial areas and a resolution to be used for capturing the structural element are determined and sub-images of the partial areas of the structural element are acquired by the capture device with the determined resolution; an image connection step which is conducted for each of the structural elements to which the sub-image acquisition step has been conducted, in which the sub-images of the partial areas of the structural element are connected together by use of image information of the sub-images and thereby an image of the structural element having the determined resolution is obtained as a synthesis target image; an image extraction step which is conducted for each of the structural elements to which the sub-image acquisition step has not been conducted, in which part of the total image corresponding to the structural element is extracted from the total image as a synthesis target image; and a wide-area high-resolution image generation step in which the synthesis target images of the structural elements obtained in the image connection steps and the image extraction steps are synthesized so that relative position relationship of the synthesis target images will be the same as that of the structural elements in the total image of the target object

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based on the position information of the structural elements obtained in the image structure analysis step and thereby a wide-area high-resolution image of the target object is obtained, as presently claimed.

Response to Arguments

7. The applicant argues:

- The examiner has not provided any reasons for crossing out in the IDS provided by the applicant, Foreign Patent documents JP H11-243482, H11-196318, JP 10-210272 and two Non-Patent Literature documents by Nakajima

[The examiner has considered Foreign Patent Documents JP H11-243482, H11-196318 and the two Non-Patent Literature documents by Nakajima (See attached PTO-892 form). However, the applicant failed to provide any translation or explanation of relevance of Foreign Patent document JP 10-210272. The examiner requests translation or explanation of relevance of Foreign Patent document JP 10-210272]

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David H. Chu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8079. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 9:00am - 7:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark k. Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DHC



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